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AMERICAN AND NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAMS SIZED UP

Boston Again Likely to Head Ban Johnson's Layout, With Philadelphia Weakened.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

By TIM MURNAE.

NEW YORK, February 3.—For the season of 1906 I think the National League has strengthened all around, while the American League is a stand-off, with every club having a show.

With the Athletics weakened by the loss of Lave Cross, I look for Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Washington, Detroit and New York to head off the Quakers for the honors next season. Only at times, however, as Connie Mack's pitchers will keep his team in a good position until he has developed a new third baseman. But he will hardly find another Lave Cross when it comes to all that goes to make up a winner and a great all-round favorite with the base-ball public.

Boston is sure to take a brace again the coming season under Jimmie Collins, who will be given full charge of the team from first to last, and make a supreme effort to put the ex-champions in their old position.

Boston has picked up enough of young talent to fill in with, and all that is needed to make a winner is to have the old players start the season in first-class condition and go out for the grand prize in earnest. Last year it was a last after two strenuous seasons, and nothing but hustling will go this season with Collins. The cut in salary suggested to the players was not necessarily the figures the club expected to pay the boys outside of two or three cases, and the Boston boys will work this season with more spirit than ever, if I am any kind of a prophet.

Looks Hard for Griff.

Clark Griffith will have a tough time in whipping that New York bunch into winning form. He has some good ball players, and many that are only of ordinary caliber. It doesn't look like a brainy bunch of stayers, and being located in New York will still handicap their progress. Players get injured too easily at the Highland ball park, and Clark Griffith is too fond of making changes, until his team is not near as strong as it was one year ago.

The Athletics will feel the setback

given them by the Giants in that meeting for the king row, and will prove much tamer next season than when led by the veteran Lave Cross.

Washington will play more consistent ball next season, and prove a difficult proposition to all teams visiting that city. Cross will be a great help to Manager Jake Stahl, and, with a good corps of pitchers, the Senators will hold their own.

Cleveland is likely to show great speed, as usual, for a part of the season, but will have trouble in keeping up with the hand wagon, as too much depends on Larry Lajoie, and even the great Larry can have his off seasons.

Detroit should prove a tough proposition as they leave the mark next spring, judging from the way they went down the home stretch last fall. No one, however, will pick Coughlin's men for pennant winners, and they are more than likely to make their best showing before July Fourth.

I look for Comiskey's Chicago boys to start off gingerly. The setback they met at the hands of Charlie Murphy's men no doubt took much of the confidence away from the boys. Being a lot of natural inside players, however, just a little more stockwork will make them a hard club to beat, and "Commy" has this in mind. St. Louis will be the same old experimental school with the principal aim to keep out of the last hole.

Pittsburg Looms Up Strong.

In the national league Pittsburg looks stronger than last season, and will be the club to give the Giants battle for first honors. I can't see how the Giants can be stopped this season. Pittsburg has a fighting chance, and will slip in should anything happen to Mathewson.

Philadelphia and Chicago are pretty sure to fight it out for third place. The Quakers are not as strong on paper, but will show better staying power. The several changes in Chicago may help out for a while in the spring, but the long summer days will tell on the new talent, and Mr. Murphy will have a heap of trouble in keeping his boys keyed up for a drive after July 4th.

Cincinnati has a shade on the second division clubs—Boston, Brooklyn and St.



NAPOLEON LAJOIE.

Tim Murnane says Cleveland is likely to show great speed as usual, for a part of the season, but will have trouble in keeping up with the hand wagon, as too much depends on Lajoie, and even the great Lajoie can have his off seasons.

coaching at Yale has developed much

strength, but indications now seem to be rather for Yale to join Harvard and possibly Princeton in a movement for graduate coaching rather than to declare for such a radical innovation at this time, especially with John A. Kennedy, the crew coach, and Billy Lush, the baseball coach, under contract for three years.

A plan to forbid members of athletic teams from another college, whether graduates or not, from becoming members of Yale teams is extremely likely to be passed at Yale. The proposition to cut out graduate and professional school students from the athletic teams is also favored by good-sized faction.

The general Yale faculty, which is holding its sessions, will probably wait till the special committee chosen by the university council three months ago reports. This committee was thought to be so favorable to the present athletic regime that the entire faculty began holding meetings over the proposed reforms.

MIDDIES JUBILANT OVER FOOT-BALL GAMES

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

ANNAPOLIS, February 3.—The naval cadets are jubilant over the prospects of two big foot-ball games here next fall.

Princeton has promised to play the middies and negotiations are being carried on with Pennsylvania. The cadets have envied West Point her contests with Yale and Harvard, believing it a great advantage to the team to be pitted against such elevens.

The last time the Naval Academy boys played Princeton the visitors were defeated.

Not Probable That Giants Will Be Headed Unless Matty Gets Severely Crippled.

Louis—and Ned Hanlon will have to sit up nights to figure a way to keep the red birds before the public as a future pennant possibility. Any one of the other three second division clubs has an even break with Hanlon if managed well. I think Hanlon a stronger all-round man to handle players, and now being in a position where he must make good, the public will have faith in Edward. The cards show that he has failed. For the sake of Cincinnati and the generous Garry Herrmann, the fans unite in rooting hard for the red birds this season. The club looks weakest in battery work and at third base.

Great Tail-End Race.

I look for the race of a lifetime among St. Louis, Brooklyn and Boston, with Fat

Donovan first choice. Donovan is hungry for baseball work, and will leave no stone unturned to beat out St. Louis.

Boston will have a shade better team that last season—at least they are likely to put more life into their playing. I believe they will receive more encouragement at the South Ends grounds than for several years.

There are so many youngsters lined up for places in the tail-end teams that one cannot properly gauge the strength of the clubs except to figure that not one in ten of the youngsters will make good the first year out in fast company.

Donovan, Tenney and McCluskey are all clever baseball generals and good trainers of young talent, while not so good when handling the more seasoned players.

TRUCKERS TO KEEP STATE LEAGUE BUSY

Manager Landgraf Says He Will Stand Pat From Now On.

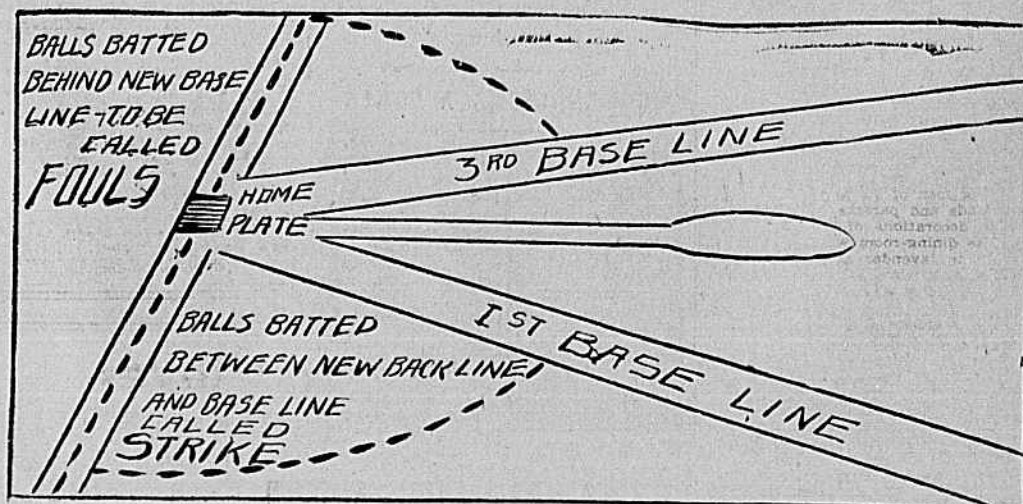
Manager Ernest C. Landgraf, of the Portsmouth Club of the State League, has notified Mr. Charles T. Bland, the owner of the Portsmouth franchise, that he has about completed signing his men and that he is willing to stand pat on the men that he has secured. Here is the roster:

Catcher—Joseph O'Halloran, of Philadelphia, formerly of Tri-State League, and last season with Olean, of the Inter-State League. James Craig, of Baltimore, for several seasons past the brilliant backstop of the Baltimore Medical College team, and last season in Northern New York League.

The first-basemen are: Harry Davis, with Washington last year and one of the heaviest batsmen of that

(Continued on Second Page.)

DIAGRAM SHOWING HOW JIMMY CALLAHAN SOLVES THE FOUL STRIKE RULE



A Suggestion That Will Vastly Improve Batting Averages—Only Fouls That Go Behind the Plate to Be Subject to the Strike Penalty.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

NEW YORK, February 3.—Batting averages of base-ball players will be vastly improved the coming year if a suggestion which Jimmy Callahan, late of the White Sox, has suggested, and which he is pushing with vigor, is adopted by the rules committee of the National Commission.

The suggestion, simple in itself, carries untold benefits to the man with the ash, and there is no doubt it will meet with popular favor among not only players, but with the general public.

The plan is nothing more or less than to have all foul tips that go behind the plate adjudged legitimate fouls, and not subject to the strike penalty. "Fouls" which hit inside the base line and in front of the imaginary line which runs through the home plate to bleacher to be adjudged strikes, as heretofore.

Callahan has already put the sugges-

tion up to President Ban Johnson, of the American League; President Comiskey, of the White Stockings, and several other prominent lights of the base-ball world, and all agree that the scheme is an excellent one and ought to be followed.

Johnson is enthusiastic about it and will probably urge its adoption by the rules committee.

No matter whether it is adopted or not, Callahan says he will introduce it this summer at his new semi-professional base-ball park at Logan Square.

"The scheme is a simple and popular one," said Callahan. "We cannot deny that the 'foul strike' rule has worked havoc to the batters' averages. With the adoption of my rule a man could improve in batting to a great degree. There is no denying that it is impossible for a batter to send a foul back of the plate."

"The foul strike rule was adopted to fool those clever batters who could tip off a foul as often as they pleased. Their

fouls, however, generally went in front of this line which I am urging. I don't care how clever the batter is, he should not send one of those tips back of the plate."

"Follow the fortunes of one of our pitchers who occasionally makes a foul tip. That favorably goes back of the plate. Then watch men like Willie Keeler or Frank Chance. They send their fouls over into the left or right-field bleachers, or, if they want to play with the pitcher and fire him, they lay them down anywhere they please except back of the plate."

"I defy all the Keelers and Chances and Wagners in the world to tip a ball back of the plate when they say they will. Hence it is that those fouls should be legitimate fouls, while the fouls in front of the plate can remain as strikes. I have talked to many baseball authorities on the scheme, and they all agree with me that it is a good one and ought to be adopted."

GRAFT POPULAR EVEN AT YALE

Athletic Association Paid Tutoring Bills of Stars, Gave the Faculty Free Tickets and the Coaches Carriage Rides Galore.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

NEW HAVEN, February 3.—From the sentiments expressed in the Yale recent faculty meetings, it is known that some of the items which have appeared in the annual reports of Mr. Camp will never be seen there again. The faculty are a unit that no athlete will be allowed to be tutored in the future and his bills paid by the athletic associations. Mr. Camp admits that this has been done in the past.

Vouchers for theatre tickets, hacks to go to the Yale field and back and similar luxuries crop out in the items allowed by Mr. Camp, and these have been seen for the last time, according to the faculty.

There is one item of athletic graft which implicates the faculty itself—free tickets to all the members of the faculty and their families to the games. The faculty have seen fit to use these year after year, and one professor is known to have taken into a game seven people on his own pass. The athletic managers are watching to see whether the faculty will hereafter frown upon free passes or will continue to accept them.

The salaries of Yale's athletic coaches have not been published in years. Members of the faculty have voted the demand in the meetings which have been held for the fullest publication of these as well as of all the financial items. The practice has been defended, however, by

Professor Eugene L. Richards, formerly chairman of the Yale General Athletic Committee, who said:

"Did you ever see a business firm which made public the salaries of its employees? If it did such a thing how long could it hold its men? Such a policy is a poor business move. That's why Yale has not done it."

An odd feature of the alignment of the faculty on the matter of athletic reform is that of a surprisingly large number of the older members stand out for much of the old regime. The radicals on the faculty are young men, instructors and assistant professors rather than professors in full. Some of the most radical men were on Yale class teams, or were even varsity substitutes.

The proposition to abolish professional

The Greatest Forward in the Amateur Hockey League



CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER SOUTHERN of the St. Nicholas Team.

Captain Christopher Southern, of the St. Nicholas Hockey Team, is accredited by the hockey world for the defeat of the crack N. Y. A. C. team by his seven. Southern is a comparative new comer in the game. He graduated from the Harvard team to the Wanderers last year, and this year wears a St. "Nick" shirt. He is an exceptionally fast skater and an accurate, hard shooter.

And the Answer Comes Back With the Force of a Typhoon: Nothing.

(By LEFT CROSS.)

NEW YORK, February 3.—If such a thing should come to pass that the stage should be the pug, what will the pug do then, poor thing? After the glory and the emoluments of the ring, he can't go to work—that is, some of him can't.

Fitz has been a frost on the stage. It was because his "A Fight for Love" ceased to draw that he went back to the game and took on O'Brien. And the death of "A Fight for Love" shows how little the public appreciates a really good thing. There never yet was a play put on the boards so funny as "A Fight for Love" with Fitz in it. If the public wants humor, and it seems to be the aim of the playwrights to furnish humor—most of them are bad shots—Fitz is the laugh kid.

Now the old man is about to run a sanitarium where the joy water and the midnight lobster are to be squeezed out of the boarders at so much per squeeze.

Jim Corbett couldn't make the public take to his "Cashel Byron's Profession" and is going back to vaudeville—maybe. This wasn't Corbett's fault. He made good, but the play won't do.

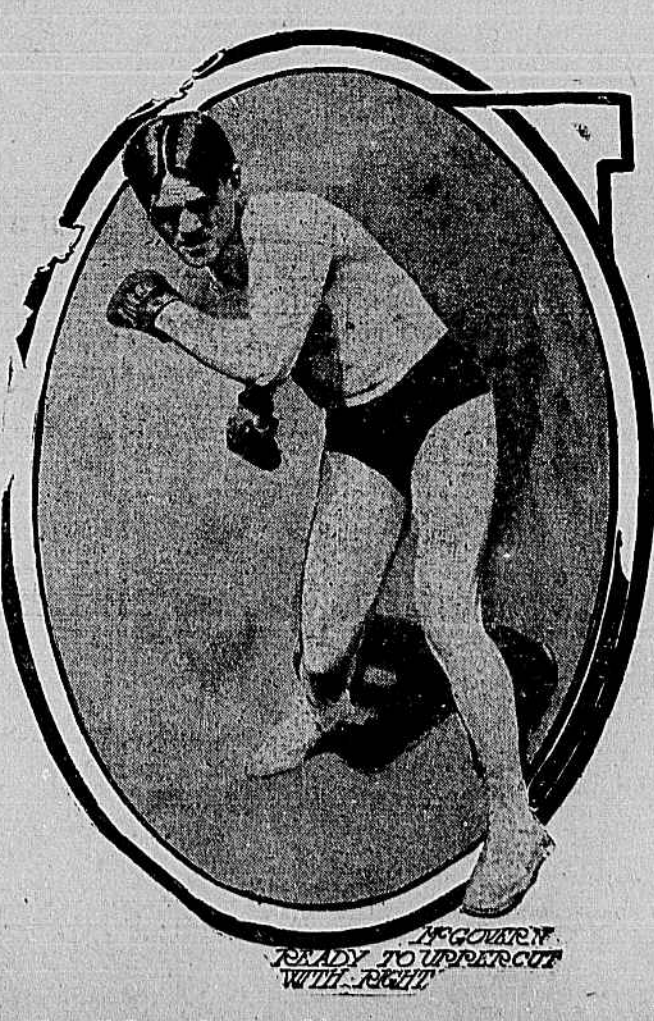
Kid McCoy has made the most radical departure from all precedent in the aftermath of a knuckle-duster. He is to open a jewelry store—no, not with a Jimmy. The Kid is going to sell diamonds and things like that.

Jeffries has got his and doesn't have to worry where his breakfast is coming from. So has Sharkey, although he is still chasing the desultory dollar over the bar.

Tommy Ryan is hoeing corn and planting potatoes on a farm. Tommy is as good a farmer as he was a fighter. He always did have a habit of making hay while the sun shone.

Jimmy Britt owns so much real estate that he can get in the fore book with the Astors. James is still in the ring, a little bit battered by Nelson, but still a candidate at the box office. Much as he likes the output of the latter, however, he'd rather stand pat than open it up with Gans present when they counted up the house. He had a piece of the smoke once and doesn't seem stuck on his game. Nelson is pottering around on the stage.

WHAT DOES THE FIGHTING BUSINESS FIT A MAN FOR?



True, Some Have Money, Others Mix Drinks, One Can Act, But Few Can Work.

and dodging any boy who wants to fight him. His cynicism, in view of the fact that he claims to be a champion, is rather amusing than anything else. It is not so much "Battling's" fault as it is that of his manager, Billy Nolan. There is the stalling kid for rain.

Nolan gives me a very severe pain. Sifting the whole thing down, there can be only one conclusion. Nolan is afraid to let Nelson fight for fear that he will get whipped and thereby lose his training powers. The fighter is Nolan's real ticket, and the cautious Billy is taking no chance of having that ticket punched to the limit. Joe Hinchey has made every concession possible to Nolan in order to get on a match with Terry McGovern, but Nolan has backed and balked at them all. Humphreys told me at the Hesper Club ball that he will have no more communication with Nolan.

"He knows what we will do to get a match, and that is almost anything. If he wants to fight, let him come to me. We won't go to him any more."

Young Corbett threatens to open a saloon on Broadway. The saloon has been the orthodox fate of the pugilistic has-been. Some have been a winner, more of them lasted but a short time. John L. Sullivan failed in three cafes. Jim Corbett made one go till they took it from under him. Neither could Brooklyn Jimmy Carroll. McCoy did well for a time, but he had to hand it over to another.

Terry McGovern doesn't need to worry. Even if he goes broke Sam Harris will always take care of him.

George Dixon has nothing, and has been earning a few dollars boxing at the three-round clubs. Joe Walcott is as poor as Dixon.

The fighter who saved his money while he was earning it and put it where it would grow has been able to take life easy after his punching days were over. The one who didn't, rarely succeeded in business. It was tending bar for him.

Gus Ruhlin has saved his, and doesn't have to do anything heavier than try to induce Jack O'Brien to meet him in the ring. At that this seems a hard task. Jack isn't slapping any cogs in his wisdom wheel just yet.

"Terry McGovern doesn't need to worry. Even he goes broke Sam Harris will always take care of him."

Warr Plackett. The Herr is back in Ireland—and thinking.